

DETAILED ACTION

The following action is in response to the amendment filed for application 10/574,725 on September 18, 2008.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Bujold on October 23, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In Claim 22:

on line 16, after "without any" the word --sun-- has been inserted.

on line 17, the phrase "and any gear" has been replaced with --any sun gear--.

In Claim 34:

on line 4, after "one of" the word "the" has been deleted.

on line 16, "third" has been replaced with --second--.

In Claim 38:

on line 4, after "one of" the word "the" has been deleted.

on line 24, after "without any" the word --sun-- has been inserted.

on line 25, the phrase "and any gear" has been replaced with --any sun gear--.

Drawings

The drawings were received on September 18, 2008. These drawings are approved.

Election/Restrictions

Claims 22, 34 and 38 are allowable and generic. Therefor all of the previously withdrawn claims have been rejoindered and the election has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 22-42 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to show or render obvious the transmission device as claimed, and particularly including a second shaft being solely driven by the first planetary gearset and the fifth shaft being solely driven by the second planetary gesrset without any sun gear or carrier of the first planetary gearset being connected with any sun gear or carrier of the second planetary gearset, and including the remaining structure of claims 22 and 38, respectively. The present invention also includes the first and second planetary gearsets being in communication only via an engagement between the first and fourth shaft, and including the remaining structure of claim 34.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Roger L. Pang whose telephone number is 571-272-7096. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:30am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Roger L Pang/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3655

Roger L Pang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3655

October 24, 2008